

Considerations for Writing/Evaluating TFA Legislation

Rate each piece of legislation 1-5 (5=best) using the following as guidelines:

Format—legislation is correctly typed into the appropriate template (see congressionaldebate.org or nationalforensicleague.org for templates); fulfills criteria for each kind of sectioning (resolution or bill—see NFL description of purposeful sectioning, formatting and phraseology); double-spaced; fits on single page; submitted as a Word document

Debatability—legislation is clearly controversial (good arguments exist for both sides)

Recency—legislation is timely with regard to current events

Newness—legislative issue has not been debated recently/too frequently

Significance—legislation is not trivial in focus

Interesting—legislation pertains to issues that students would enjoy debating

Grammatical—legislation upholds grammatical expectations of Standard English

National Focus—legislation must involve national interest and enforcement

Jurisdiction—legislative interest or enforcement must be under the jurisdiction of the appropriate federal governmental body

School appropriate—legislation should pertain to issues that teachers deem appropriate for school discussion

Challenging—legislative issue requires research and critical thinking on the part of the students

Originality—legislation is the original work of the students from the submitting school; not plagiarized from any source

Correctness—legislation should be checked for correctness by school coach/sponsor before submitting for consideration by the TFA Congress Committee; no do-overs please

Number of submissions—each school may submit up to 3 pieces of legislation at each docket submission deadline; submitting all pieces at the same time is desirable

Authorship—school name, not student name, should be included in the *Introduced for Congressional Debate by* line of the template, so that submitting school can be guaranteed authorship

Deadline—legislation is submitted by the appropriate deadline (Nov.1st for spring docket; May 1st for fall docket) to the current TFA Congressional Debate Committee Chairperson by email as a Word document